

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In an Office Action dated March 22, 2007, claims 1-3, 28-31, 34-39 and 41 were rejected under § 102 based on Okimoto and claims 32, 33 and 40 were rejected under § 103 over Okimoto and Greenskin. Applicants traverse the rejections.

Section 102 Rejection

Claims 1-3, 28-31, 34-39 and 41 were rejected under § 102 based on Okimoto. Applicants traverse the rejections.

Claim 1

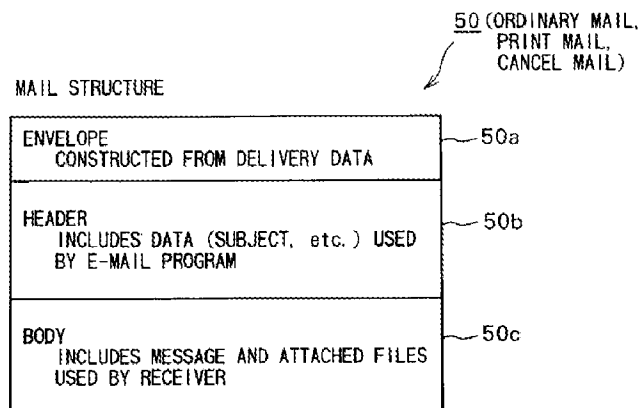
Claim 1 recites a system for remote printing comprising a local computer having at least one stored document being associated with at least one native data format. The native data format is other than a page descriptor format. The local computer is adapted for accepting a print request associated with the document. A remote computer is associated with a remote printer and is adapted for receiving the print request and automatically causing the document to be printed on the remote printer so that the native data format of the document is maintained in the document printed by the remote computer on the remote printer. Okimoto et al. does not disclose or suggest this arrangement. As previously argued, Okimoto et al. is unable to maintain document data in a non-page descriptor format through the printing process and Okimoto et al. must convert document data into page descriptor format for printing. This is contrary to claim 1 which recites that the native data format is not a page description format. In response the Office Action references col. 14, lines 16 to 48 of Okimoto, stating that a print mail is created by combining print data with various other data such as envelope data 50a, with the print mail being interpreted to be the native format. Applicants submit that this statement mischaracterizes Okimoto. Okimoto, col. 14, lines 34 to col. 15, line 2 and Fig. 17 are provided here for ease of reference.

In S230, a mail header **50b** is created according to the information set by the user in S220. A message ID identifying the subject mail is also created and included in the mail header **50b**. Then, in S240, the file attributes included in the file data, which is received in S210 from the printer driver **30**, are added to the mail header **50b**. In S250, all other necessary data, which is set in S220 as needed, is added to the mail header **50b**.

Then, in S260, print data is read from the RAM **133** at the storage area indicated by the file data received from the printer driver **30** in S210. The print data is included in the mail body **50c** as an attached file. Finally, all other necessary data, such as the envelope data **50a**, is added to complete a set of print mail data. As a result, the set of print mail data **50** is created as shown in FIG. 17.

Accordingly, the body **50c** of the print mail is constructed from the attached file including print data desired to be printed at the transfer destination. The header **50b** of the print mail includes: the message ID identifying the subject print mail; an address of the mail server **24** connected to the computer **4**; an address of the transfer destination; the subject of the print mail; and the like. The header **50b** further includes indication whether or not the sender wishes to receive a return mail from a destination computer. The header **50b** of the print mail further includes print information (processing format data) indicative of how the print data included in the attached file is desired to be printed at the transfer destination. The print information includes the file attributes such as: a code indicative of the page description language, at which the print data has been prepared; the number of pages, onto which the print data has been edited; and the number of copies of the print data desired to be outputted at the transfer destination. The print information also includes data of "date and time" when the print mail is desired to be printed if this "date and time" data is set by the sender in S220.

FIG. 17



Applicants also excerpt col. 20, line 51 to col. 21, line 4 and col. 22, lines 20 to 31, which are the companion operations on the remote computers for print mail operations.

Next, the program determines in **S981**, based on the contents of the mail log data (mail header), whether the subject mail is print mail, that is, whether the mail has been created by the print mail transmission utility process **31a**. This determination is attained through judging whether print information (file attributes) is included in the mail log data (mail header data). If the mail log data includes print information, the corresponding mail is determined as print mail. If the mail log data does not include print information, on the other hand, the corresponding mail is determined as ordinary mail. If the mail is print mail (“yes” in **S981**), then in **S982** the program inspects the file attributes, included in the mail header, to determine page description language (emulation type) of print data included in the print mail. In the present embodiment, the file attributes include a code indicative of the page description language (emulation type) of the print data. That is, the page description language code indicates PCL, PostScript, GDI, or the like, with which the print data is described or defined. Accordingly, the program easily determines the page description language of the print data based on the page description language code.

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Then, in **S1020**, the program determines, based on the mail header (mail log data) of the subject mail, whether the subject mail is print mail which has been created using the print mail transmission utility process **31a**. If the mail is print mail (“yes” in **S1020**), the program proceeds to **S1030**, wherein the program determines whether a print process of **S1040** has been completed for all the print data included in the file attached to the subject mail. If the print process has not yet been completed for all the print data in the attached file (“no” in **S1030**), one piece of print data from a plurality of pieces of print data constituting the attached file, is transferred in **S1040** to a print spooler. The print spooler is

The Office Action has stated that the print mail is considered to be the native format. However, it is submitted that the envelope data 50a is the addressing information for the email itself, not any data which is to be printed. It is clear that the header 50b is the job data, such as the message ID, return mail request, page description language code and the like. Clearly this is not data which is to be printed. The data to be printed, that data which is in the page description language, “is included in the mail body 50c as an attached file.” Col. 14, lines 44-45. “[T]he body 50c of the print mail is constructed from the attached file including print data desired to be printed at the transfer destination.” Col. 14, lines 49-51. “If the mail is print mail (“yes” in **S1020**), the program proceeds to **S1030**, wherein the program determines whether a print process

of S1040 has been completed for all the print data included in the file attached to the subject mail.” Col. 22, lines 23-27.

Thus the envelope 50a and header 50b cannot properly be considered to be the document to be printed, so that the format is not relevant. Only the print data in the attached file, which is in a page description language, is printed. As the claim specifically requires that the document format not be a page description language, this leaves no elements in Okimoto to teach the requirements of the claim.

Applicants therefore submit that claim 1, and its dependent claims, are allowable over Okimoto.

Claim 28

Amended claim 28 recites a system for remote printing comprising a local computer having at least one document stored thereon with the document being in a native data format other than a page descriptor format. A remote printer receives data in a format other than the native data format and a remote computer is coupled to the local computer and is also coupled to and associated with the remote printer in order to receive and print the document. The local computer provides the document in the native data format in response to a print request, the remote computer receives the document in the native data format and the remote computer prints the document on the remote printer. As described above with respect to claim 1, which arguments apply equally to claim 28, Okimoto et al. does not disclose or suggest that the remote computer receives document data for printing in a native data format in response to a print request, unless, by implication, the native data format is a page descriptor format. As claim 28 specifically recites that the native data format is not a page descriptor format, claim 28 cannot be anticipated by Okimoto et al. Applicants believe that claim 28 clearly distinguishes over the cited reference and is therefore allowable. Claims 29-35, dependent upon claim 28, are also believed to be allowable by virtue of claim 28 being allowable.

Claim 36

Independent claim 36 has been amended to recite a method for remote printing of a document from a local computer, in a first format associated with an application by which the document is maintained, by a remote computer using a remote printer which receives data in a

format different than the first format comprising the steps of providing the document from the local computer in the first format in response to a print request, receiving the document at the remote computer in the first format, and printing the document on the remote printer by the remote computer. Okimoto et al. does not disclose or suggest the method as recited in claim 36. The arguments made above with respect to claim 1 apply equally to that claim 36 is therefore believed to be allowable over the cited reference. Claims 37- 41, dependent upon claim 36, are also believed to be allowable by virtue of claim 36 being allowable.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above remarks Applicants respectfully submit that all of the present claims are allowable. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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